to be held on 2nd February, 1991 has been put off;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for postponement of the said meeting; and

(c) what is India's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Memorandum for the opening independent Post Office in the Industrial Area of Waluj in Maharashtra

1000. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Industries Association of Marathwada requesting for the opening of independent post office in the industrieal area of Waluj (Aurangabad) in the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what is the decision if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for opening a post office at Bajajnagar, MIDC, Waluj has been received.

(b) The proposal is awaiting concurrence of Ministry of Finance, before issuing sanction for its opening.

Extinction of Himalaya Musk Deer due ot relentless poaching

1001. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Himalayan musk deer is heading for extinction due to relentless poaching; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to protect this species of deer from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No reports of large scale poaching of Himalayan musk deer have been received. Sporadic instances of poaching of musk deer are reported from time to time.

(b) The action taken to protect these species from poachers includes:

(i) The species is included in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and hunting of the species and trade in musk or any parts of the animal are strictly prohibited.

(ii) The musk deer is included in Appendix I of "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" and any international trade in the species or articles derived from the species is totally banned.

(iii) Regular checking of wildlife consignments is made by the Regional Deputy Directors, Wildlife Preservation to ensure that no prohibited wildlife product is exported in the garb of permitted items.

(iv) A network of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks has been set up in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim to provide protection to the species and its habitat.

(v) Wildlife wings of these states carry out anti-poaching activities to prevent illegal killing of the species.

(vi) Captive breeding of musk deer has been taken up by the State Governments for augmenting the population of the species.